

**Department of Historic Resources**  
**Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0120**

**Resource Identification**

Property Name(s): ..... WFF # Y-060 - Island Radar Control Building  
{Current}  
Property Date: ..... 1953  
Address(s): ..... Island Road {Current}  
County/Independent City: Accomack  
Vicinity of: ..... Chincoteague  
State, Zip: ..... Virginia 23337  
USGS Quad Name: ..... WALLOPS ISLAND  
Surrounding area: ..... Rural

**National Register Eligibility Status**

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

**Resource Description**

Ownership Status: ..... Public - Federal  
Acreage: ..... 0.5

**Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	Roof - Flat	Asphalt	Roof - Not visible
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Stucco	
Windows	Windows - Double-hung	Vinyl	Windows - 1/1

Site Description: ..... Located within a level paved area on the west side of Island Road, close to the center of Wallops Island.

**WUZIT Count:**

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Communications Facility	Historic

**NR Resource Count:**

**Individual Resource Information**

WUZIT: ..... Communications Facility

Est. Date of Construction: .... 1953 {Owner/site visit}      Accessed? ..... No    Not accessible  
Primary Resource? ..... Yes      Number of Stories: ..... 1.0  
Architectural Style: ..... Other      Condition: ..... Good  
Interior Plan Type: ..... Irregular      Threats to Resource: ..... Demolition

Description: This masonry building sits atop a poured concrete slab foundation and a shallow pitch (almost flat) gable roof. The exterior, concrete block walls are covered with a modern, spray-on, slightly rough textured, stucco finish. The building consists of two rectangular sections of which the front section is smaller. The east (front) elevation has a set of metal double doors each of which has a three fixed-pane window; a small, concrete cantilevered awning is located above the opening. A small set of concrete steps leads up from grade to the doors. A second set of similar doors is located on the west end of the south elevation. Windows for the building include one-over-one double hung vinyl replacement sash. A metal staircase provides access on the exterior from grade to the roof level where a radar antenna is located. Tubular metal posts and railings encircle the roof. Aluminum flashing runs along the top edge of the wall on all four sides.

**Cemetery Information**

**Bridge Information**

**Department of Historic Resources**  
**Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0120**

***National Register Eligibility Information***

*Historic Context(s):* ..... Technology/Engineering

*Historic Time Period(s):*..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

*Significance Statement:* This one-story building was built in 1953 by the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) and was part of the third phase of NACA construction efforts on Wallops Island. Originally known as Station 3, the building has housed radar systems and associated equipment since its construction. In 1947-48, the portable radars used in tracking of rockets launched as part of NACA missions on Wallops Island were placed on a permanent site approximately 1,300 feet from the first launch area (Launch Area 2, 001-0027-0116, WFF # Y-035,) on the western side of the island. Telephone and power lines were extended to the site in 1948. The following year the road to the site was paved. In 1952, an eighty-five foot diameter concrete pad was laid out on the site, used as a base for the portable radars. The existing, permanent building was built atop the pad in 1953 to replace the trailers that had been used to store the radar. The outside edges of the circular pad are still visible in the surrounding concrete pavement. Now part of the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), the building is located immediately north of another radar station (WFF # Y055) built in 1958, not included in this survey.

The building is representative of a Technology/Engineering property type built at the beginning of the New Dominion Period (1945 – present) period. The building was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of NACA from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry, and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race.

The Island Radar Control Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. As a secondary resource, it does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. The resource retains its integrity but as a secondary resource of common design and materials, the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory under Criterion D.

***Bibliographic Documentation***

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0120**

*Reference #: 1*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map  
*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy  
*Citation Abbreviation:* .....  
*Notes:* ..... "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

*Reference #: 2*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map  
*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy  
*Citation Abbreviation:* .....  
*Notes:* ..... "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

*Reference #: 3*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Book  
*Author:* ..... Joseph Adams Shortal  
*Citation Abbreviation:* ..... Shortal, 1978  
*Notes:* ..... "A New Dimension; Wallops Flight Test Range: The First Fifteen Years," NASA Reference Publication 1028. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Scientific and Technical Office: N.p., 1978.

*Reference #: 4*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map  
*Author:* ..... Giffels and Valet  
*Citation Abbreviation:* .....  
*Notes:* ..... Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

**Ownership Information**

**Graphic Media Documentation**

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21543	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 19-22

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events**

*CRM Event # 1,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey  
*Date:* ..... 2004/07/99  
*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group  
*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571  
*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

*CRM Event # 2,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey  
*Date:* ..... 2003/08/08  
*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group  
*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571  
*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814